WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An image processing apparatus for generating image data to be outputted by using data conversion, said apparatus comprising:

first storage means for storing compressed conversion table data having compressed grid point data of a conversion table arranged by color components which are used to construct the image data to be outputted;

expansion means for expanding the compressed conversion table data; and

conversion means for performing said data conversion by interpolation operation based on the expanded conversion table data.

2.   The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising second storage means for storing the expanded conversion table data.

3.   The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said data conversion is a process of converting color space of image data.

4.   The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said data conversion includes complementary color conversion and under color removal.

5.   The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising sorting means for sorting the expanded conversion table data to generate a combination of

5   plural color component data arranged by grid points.

6.   The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

input means for inputting a command indicative of

10   print instruction and data indicative of a print medium characteristic; and

control means for expanding a plurality of conversion table data for a plurality of conversion tables corresponding to the data indicative of the print

15   medium characteristic, and performing said data conversion by using a conversion table appropriate for a characteristic of inputted image data.

7.   An image processing method for generating

20   image data to be outputted by using data conversion, said method comprising the steps of:

expanding compressed conversion table data having compressed grid point data of a conversion table arranged by color components which are used to construct

25   the image data to be outputted; and

performing said data conversion by interpolation

operation based on the expanded conversion table data.

8.   The method according to claim 7, wherein said data conversion is a process of converting color space of image data.

9.   The method according to claim 7, wherein said data conversion includes complementary color conversion and under color removal.

10.   The method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of sorting the expanded conversion table data to generate a combination of plural color component data arranged by grid points.

11.   The method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of:

inputting a command indicative of print instruction and data indicative of a print medium characteristic;

expanding a plurality of conversion table data for a plurality of conversion tables corresponding to the data indicative of the print medium characteristic; and

performing said data conversion by using a conversion table appropriate for a characteristic of inputted image data.

12. A data processing method for processing data used in data conversion, said method comprising the steps of:

5   inputting conversion table data where combinations of plural color component data are arranged by grid points;

sorting the conversion table data in a color component unit; and

10   compressing the sorted conversion table data.

13. A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having computer program code, for generating image data to be outputted by using data 15 conversion, said product comprising:

expansion procedure code for expanding compressed conversion table data having compressed grid point data of a conversion table arranged by color components which are used to construct the image data to be outputted; 20 and

conversion procedure code for performing said data conversion by interpolation operation based on the expanded conversion table data.

25   14. A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having computer program code

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for processing data used in data conversion, said

product comprising:

input procedure code for inputting conversion

table data where combinations of plural color component

5   data are arranged by grid points;

sorting procedure code for sorting the conversion

table data in a color component unit; and

compression procedure code for compressing the

sorted conversion table data.

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15.   A computer readable medium recording a

conversion table which is used in image processing for

generating image data by data conversion, wherein in

said conversion table, grid point data is arranged by

15   color components which are used to construct the image

data, then compressed and recorded.